

Developments in Early Old English through Language Contacts(Abstract)

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Abstract**Developments in Early Old English through Language Contacts****Shigeyuki Kobayashi**

The conventional theory that the earliest ancestor of English, from which all dialects of Old English (OE) branched off, was formed immediately after the Anglo-Saxon invasion in 449 AD, has been generally accepted despite many objections.

According to another prominent theory, the Anglo-Saxon invasion resulted in the extinction of the Celtic languages. However, this linguistic perspective on the theory is based on the wipeout theory, which was refuted by Oppenheimer (2006), and therefore it requires reconsideration.

The development of OE's peculiar characteristics is assumed to have been influenced by Latin, from which OE was translated, or by the Celtic languages of the Britons.

This paper reviews some recent analysis of verb-final word order in Early OE main clauses and Oppenheimer's theory, and reveals language contacts between the Saxons and Britons before the Anglo-Saxon invasion.